

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 0572

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT: ARRIVAL STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS A DRAFT PROPOSED TEXT OF STATEMENT TO BE
MADE BY THE SECRETARY ON ARRIVAL IN SAN JOSE ON MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 23.

QUOTE: I AM MOST HAPPY TO BE IN COSTA RICA. FOR YEARS I
HAVE HEARD ABOUT THIS SMALL DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT
FEEL THE NEED FOR AN ARMY AND A DEFENSE BUDGET, INSTEAD
CONCENTRATING ITS RESOURCES AND ENERGIES ON EDUCATION,
CULTURE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. I WANTED TO SEE ALL THIS
FOR MYSELF. ALSO, AT VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS I
HAVE LISTENED WITH RESPECT AND ATTENTION AS COSTA RICAN
REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN VOICES ON INDEPENDENCE, REASON
AND COURAGE ON A BROAD RANGE OF QUESTIONS. I WANTED TO
SEE THE SOURCE FROM WHICH THESE VOICES CAME.

I ALSO WANTED TO EXPERIENCE HERE IN CENTRAL AMERICA THE
OPEN SOCIETY OF COSTA RICA, WHERE INDIVIDUAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS
ARE VALUED AS THEY ARE IN FEW COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD TODAY.
WE IN THE UNITED STATES IDENTIFY EASILY WITH SUCH FREE SOCIETIES.
WE FEEL THAT THE HEALTHY STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS IS
IN LARGE MEASURE DUE TO THE DEMOCRATIC NATURE OF OUR TWO
SOCIETIES.

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 00572 042119Z

THIS YEAR, AS WE CELEBRATE THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR

INDEPENDENCE, WE AMERICANS FIND OURSELVES REEXAMINING OUR ROOTS AS WE GRAPPLE WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE PRESENT AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE. I FIND IT PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY THAT THE VALUES THAT MADE THE UNITED STATES--HONEST, HARD WORK, SELF-RELIANCE, CONCERN FOR OTHERS, THRIFT, BELIEF IN THE DIGNITY OF MAN AND IN DEMOCRACY--ARE THE SAME ONES THAT YOUR HISTORIANS CITE FOR THE UNIQUE DEVELOPMENT OF COSTA RICA.

DURING MY STAY IN YOUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY I LOOK FORWARD TO A FRUITFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER AND FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO, WHO HAVE MADE AND CONTINUE TO MAKE ON BEHALF OF THIS RENOWNED COUNTRY A DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THIS HEMISPHERE, AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AND WORLDWIDE. ALSO, THANKS TO THE THOUGHTFULNESS AND HOSPITALITY OF PRESIDENT ODUBER, WE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENTS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA WHO HAVE GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED PRESIDENT ODUBER'S INVITATION TO VISIT AT THIS TIME. I WELCOME THE OCCASION TO REVIEW WITH THEM PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN THE BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND BROADER INTERNATIONAL SETTINGS.

FINALLY, AS MY PERSONAL GREETING, I SIMPLY WISH TO SAY:
"VIVA COSTA RICA". END QUOTE
TODMAN

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